

CP/2747  
2644

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Shigeki Fujii

Group Art Unit: 2747

Appln. No.: 09/595,655

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: June 16, 2000

Title: SOUND PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS

January 23, 2001

\* \* \* \* \*

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

I hereby certify that each enclosed document listed on the herewith Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months ago by the attached Great Britain Search Report/Office Action dated December 11, 2000. See that report/action for the degree of relevance (category) of each document and for the particular passages cited therefor.

This IDS is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

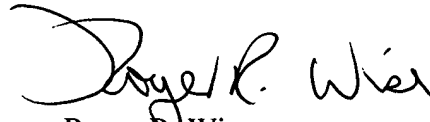
Contingent IDS Request Under Rule 97(d): Should a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance issue with a mailing date which precedes or is the same as the filing date of this IDS, please consider this a Request under Rule 97(d), charge the IDS fee (Rule 17(p)) to our Deposit Account No. 03-3975 under Order No. 051270/0245645, and proceed to consider this IDS under Rule 97(d).



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Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 are earnestly solicited along with an early action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

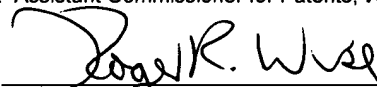


Roger R. Wise  
Reg. No. 31,204

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP  
725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2800  
Los Angeles, California 90017-5406  
Telephone: (213) 488-7584  
Facsimile: (213) 629-1033

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on 01/23/01.

By:



Roger R. Wise, Reg. No. 31,204



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Yamaha Corporation  
% Elkington and Fife  
Prospect House  
8 Pembroke Road  
SEVENOAKS Kent  
TN13 1XR

**The Patent Office**  
Concept House  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
South Wales  
NP10 8QQ

Examiner: 01633 813590  
†E-mail: martyn.dixon@patent.gov.uk  
Switchboard: 01633 814000  
Fax: 01633 814444

**Your Reference:** NJE/DSH/P15220GB  
**Application No:** GB 0015130.8

12 December 2000

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)**

I enclose two copies of my search report and two copies of the citations. You should note that the documents cited are examples of many which appear relevant to the broader aspects of your invention. A further search may be needed at a later stage. However, the search is complete in respect of claim 4, the only document found which appears relevant to this claim being WO99/08380A.

**Publication**

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **9 January 2001**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

**Amendment/withdrawal**

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

Yours faithfully

Martyn Dixon  
Examiner

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†Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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**Application No:** GB 0015130.8  
**Claims searched:** all

**Examiner:** Martyn Dixon  
**Date of search:** 11 December 2000

**Patents Act 1977**  
**Search Report under Section 17**

**Databases searched:**

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): H4R (RPX,RSX)

Int Cl (Ed.7): H04H (1/00,5/00,7/00); H04S (1/00,3/00,5/00)

Other: Online: EPODOC,WPI,JAPIO

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X,P	GB 2343347 A (Central Research Laboratories) see e.g. fig 11	1,2,5-7,12
X	GB 2269969 A (Samsung) see fig 2	1,2,6,7,12,14
X	GB 2252023 A (Mitsubishi) see the whole document	1,3,6,8,12,14
X	GB 0451557 A (Etablissements Bernard Roux) see especially fig 4	1,2,6,7,14
X	WO 99/08380 A (Hearing Enhancement) see the whole document, but especially page 3, lines 1-3	1-8,10,14
X	WO 94/16538 A (Desper Products) see e.g. fig 10 and page 39, lines 27-33	1-3,5-9,12,14,16

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step  
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.

& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.  
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.  
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.